

St. Louis Public Library

ANNUAL
REPORT
1975-1976



BOARD of DIRECTORS

E. R. Culver III	Chairman
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Mrs. Norman C. Hoerber
N. Webster Moore
Mrs. Ernest M. Potts
Charles Shelton, Jr.

Paxton P. Price	Librarian and Executive Director, Secretary
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ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAIN LIBRARY, 1301 Olive St. 63103	(314) 241-2288
Reference service when Library is closed	241-2277

BRANCHES

Baden 8448 Church Rd. 63147	388-2400
Barr 1701 S. Jefferson Ave. 63104	771-7040
Benton 1921 Prather Ave. 63139	645-2468
Buder 5320 Hampton Ave. 63109	352-2900
Cabanne 1106 Union Blvd. 63113	367-0717
Carondelet 6800 Michigan Ave. 63111	752-9224
Carpenter 3309 S. Grand Blvd. 63118	772-6586
Compton 1624 Locust St. 63103	241-2288
Community Services	
Film Library	
Crunden 2008 Cass Ave. 63106	241-6639
Des Peres 5960 Kingsbury Blvd. 63112	726-2653
Divoll 4234 N. Grand Blvd. 63107	534-0313
Gravois 5028 Morganford Rd. 63116	481-3125
Julia Davis 4666 Natural Bridge Ave. 63115	383-3021
Kingshighway 4641 Shenandoah Ave. 63110	771-5450
Lashly 4537 W. Pine Blvd. 63108	367-4120
Machacek 6424 Scanlan Ave. 63139	781-2948
Meachum 3701 Grandel Square 63108	652-3319
Municipal Reference Library 13 City Hall	453-3548
Walnut Park 5760 W. Florissant 63120	383-1210
Weilston 5886 Dr. M. L. King Dr. 63112	385-4042
Wolfner Memorial Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped 1808 Washington Ave. 63103	241-4227

The Annual Report is produced by the Library Public
Relations Department. Design by Betty Asher Shew,
staff artist.



Every enterprise, and particularly a tax-supported public service, should give an accounting of itself regularly.

At issue are the questions: Has the institution met its purposes and objectives? Has its program been reviewed for pertinence? Has it honestly and judiciously used public resources? We believe St. Louisans can approve the Library's record for the past year and support its contributions to their educational and cultural quality of life.

The present level and extent of Library services is threatened, nonetheless, by declining income and continued inflation. Many economies have been made, and more will be sought, to pare expenses without cutting into the basic fabric of Library services. All possible and available federal funds have been applied for, although this source is predictably uncertain.

Despite the bleak financial future, progressive steps have been taken, and new services instituted, with no increase in costs. Most are adaptations or refinements of existing methods and services, or substitutions for old ones, in the effort to increase the Library's social utility.

This report briefly describes some of these activities and encourages all St. Louisans to use and support their St. Louis Public Library.

The Librarian and Executive Director

"Library Services Unlimited" is designed to help people cope with real survival problems. Residents' advisory councils at six branches suggest practical Library services and programs for their neighborhoods: tutoring; job information; workshops in home repairs and nutrition; anemia and blood pressure testing; help in preparing income tax and older citizens' tax forms — all offered by cooperative community agencies. The LSU project is federally funded for a second year.



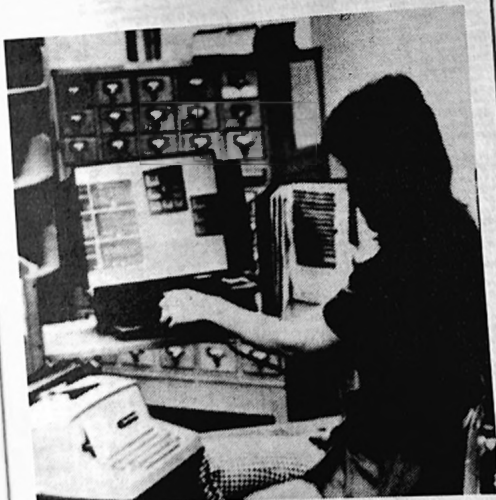
Peter Ferman Photographers

Learning . . . a first step to earning. Use of Library facilities as classrooms and job counseling centers by community agencies is supported by germane Library services: Career Opportunity Centers (self-service film-strip viewers on job training/perform-ance and money management), post-ing of civil service job announcements, information sessions with local busi-ness representatives and job test preparation and information centers.



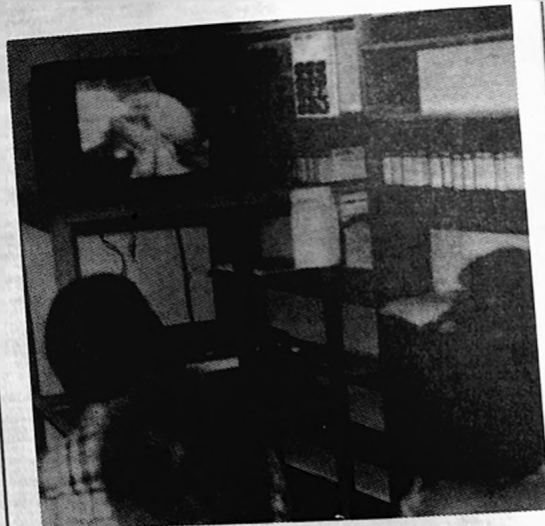
St. Louis Globe-Democrat

This mobile Black History Center joined the success information van, 200 Y Achievement and Revolu-tion popular adjunct to Libr-ary services. Other bookmo-biles to serve shut-ins and ser-vice in residences and nurs-ing homes as well as schools and area branch services.



A. James Lyons

A new form of card catalog . . . these microfiche readers give each branch instant access to the Library system's entire resource files — data on items in the collection and their locations. Direct arrangements are made be-tween the branches for delivery of needed items to the Library user at any point in the system.



A. James Lyons

These students join a growing number of adults enrolled in classes meeting at the Library, where videocassette les-sons add a new dimension to "Live and Learn" services. Facilities, mate-rials and staff support educational programs offered by public schools, community agencies, local universities and regional consortia. Last year 112 persons took CLEP tests for college credit in the Library's unique program cited in the October, 1975, *Reader's Digest*. Staff learning advisors person-ally counseled many more adult learners.



Peter Ferman Photogra

The Book Booth — efforts to make serv-ice convenient to users — recent behind the Main Lib-rary red-white-blue strip-livers books (reque-ired at curbside to down-load afternoons, when ru-ined limited parking hir-ing use.



De-Democrat

Black History Information
d the successful women's
van, "200 Years of
t and Revolution," as a
inct to Library outreach
er bookmobiles continue
t-ins and senior citizens
s and nursing homes, as
ols and areas beyond
ces.

Telephone reference use doubled at Main Library last year, and was extended to evening hours. Some 1000 questions monthly are answered by telephone when the Library is closed.

A public opinion survey found that St. Louisans value highly their Library system and consider its tax monies efficiently used; but many residents are unaware of the basic, diverse services available — findings confirmed nationally in a recent Gallup poll. Survey conclusions will shape the Library's future communications efforts.



Peter Ferman Photographers

An auditorium for library and community meetings was created in the renovation of Carpenter Branch. Children's activities now are centered in the north wing. The branch opened in 1927, the last Carnegie-built branch in the country.

Similar renovation is planned at Barr Branch, dating from 1906, first library branch building in the St. Louis system.



Photographers

both — one of the Library's
ike services more conven-
— recently made its debut
lain Library. The portable
ie striped Book Booth de-
(requested before 3 p.m.)
o downtown drivers each
hen rush hour traffic and
ng hinder in-house Library



Peter Ferman Photographers

Teachers, parents and librarians met noted author Emily Neville in the Children's Literature Room in July, marking publication of her new book researched in the Souldard area.

Librarians worked closely with schools and preschool centers and with larger numbers of classes in the branches. Nonfiction materials and learning games, resource artists, puppets, ethnic culture and summer reading programs and a Bicentennial poster-essay contest enriched children's experiences.

Finding information is made easier with two new publications. The year-old *Index to St. Louis Newspapers* list articles from four area micro-filmed editions, now indexed and edited through a computer display terminal. Its financial independence is based on annual subscriptions.

Some 36,000 periodical titles in 35 area libraries are located quickly in the *Union List of Periodicals*, thus opening extensive research materials to the user.

A third publication, *Collection Development in St. Louis Area Libraries*, with the *Union List* and the Library's new codified collection policy, are used to determine book and periodical purchase priorities and for coordination with other libraries.

LIBRARY CONTENTS AND USE

The St. Louis Public Library, founded in 1865, was reorganized and became tax supported in 1893, now serves a population of 568,100 (1973), its materials and services loaned free to city residents and city taxpayers (nonresident fee \$25); reference use is free to all. The Library tax rate of \$.25 per \$100 assessed valuation was established in 1970 by popular vote.

The Library System has 153 agencies, including

The Main Library
 19 community branches
 2 special branches
 7 mobile units
 51 classroom libraries (in 20 schools, 31 day care and Head Start centers)
 75 deposit libraries (adult education, community and senior citizen centers)

Service Days and Hours, Loan Period

The Library system was open 304 days during the year
 (52 hours each week at Main Library, 51 or more hours at branches)
 Closed nine holidays
 Standard book loan period is fourteen days

Library Resources Borrowed 1975 - 1976

Books, phonograph records, cassette tapes	2,556,567
Framed prints	5,408
Slides	10,037
Sculpture	238
Films: 39,991 showings viewed by 852,346 persons	

Library card holders on March 31, 1976

127,412

Library Resources on March 31, 1976

Volumes (26% for reference use, 74% circulating)	
Added	1,366,828
Withdrawn	47,355
Net decrease	53,057
Miscellaneous resources:	(5,702)
Paperback books	2,807,072
Newspapers (126 current, 88 inactive titles)	144,221
Periodicals (2,525 current, 7878 inactive titles)	214
Government publications (books, pamphlets, serials)	10,404
Maps	1,737,852
Microforms (31,277 microfilms, 61,170 microprints, 47,202 microfiche, 9,339 microcards)	93,780
Photographs, pictures, unframed prints, clippings	148,988
Framed prints	468,000
Slides	1,485
Sculpture reproductions	14,880
Phonograph records	284
Films (2,105 16mm, 776 8mm)	74,005
Projected books	2,881
Cassette tapes	282
Wolfner Memorial Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped	602
Tapes (987 magnetic, 11,464 cassette tapes)	
Braille books	12,451
Talking books	22,867
Large print books	72,868
	1,008

FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

Year ended March 31, 1976

The information shown herein has been summarized by the Library from its financial records. A copy of the Certified Public Accountant's annual report is on file in the Library's offices.

Statement of Operations — General Fund

Revenues	\$4,710,701
Operating expenditures	<u>4,079,849</u>
	\$ 630,852
Capital improvements	<u>163,335</u>
Revenues exceeded expenditures	\$ 467,517

General Fund Balance Sheet

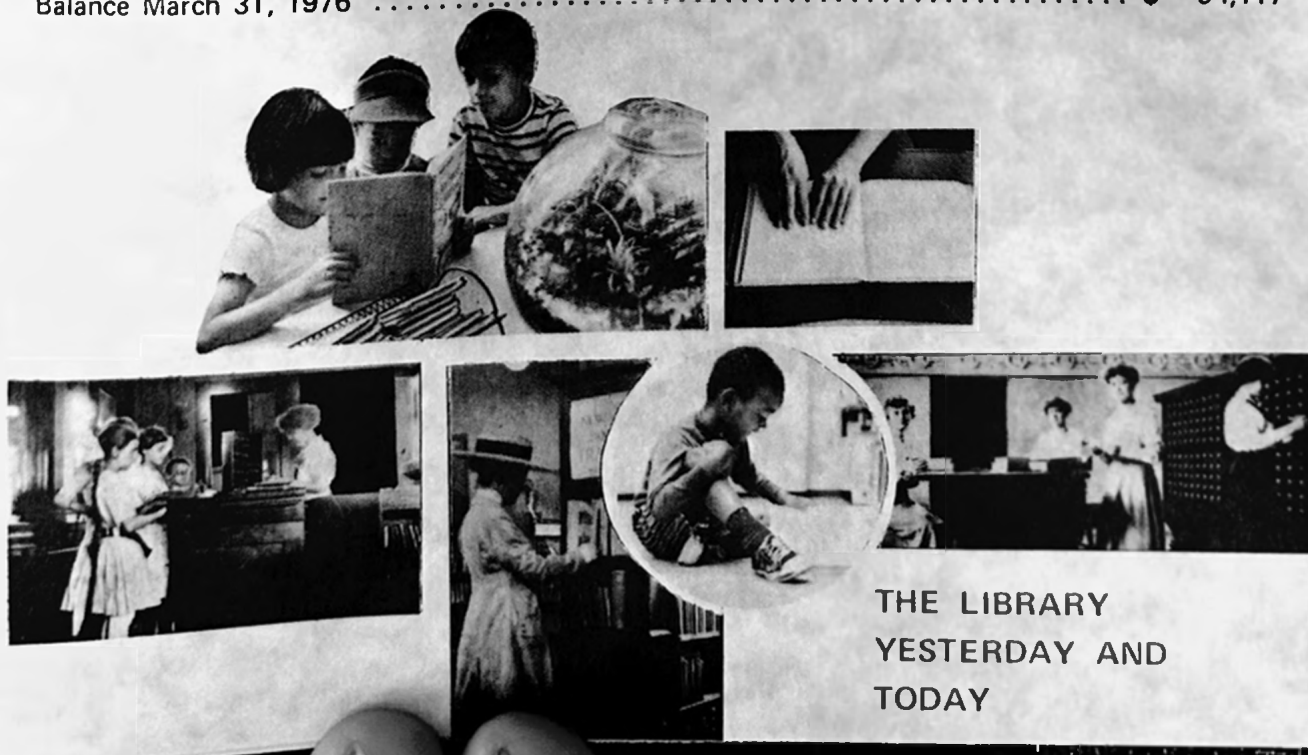
Assets	<u>\$5,318,219</u>
Liabilities	\$ 288,126
Reserve working capital, 1976-1977	1,700,000
General Fund balance, March 31, 1976	<u>3,330,093</u>
	<u>\$5,318,219</u>

Other Fund Balances

Balance March 31, 1975	\$ 107,237
Receipts	
Gifts	\$ 1,905
Investment income	6,489
Federal grant funds	<u>155,081</u>
	<u>163,475</u>
	\$ 270,712

Disbursements

Books	\$ 26,033
Other	50,562
	<u>176,595</u>
Balance March 31, 1976	\$ 94,117



THE LIBRARY
YESTERDAY AND
TODAY



1301 OLIVE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
63103

ANNUAL REPORT 1975-1976

